

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

IN RE:
ELECTRONIC DEVICES
IN THE COURTHOUSE

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MISC. NO. 00-308

STANDING ORDER 2026-04

Under Local Rule 506, the Court has generally prohibited any photography, video recording, audio recording, broadcasting, and transmission of court proceedings and courthouse spaces. This rule is intended to protect the integrity of judicial proceedings and the security of court personnel, attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and jurors. In furtherance of this rule and to provide notice to visitors to federal courthouses in the District of Maryland, it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. For purposes of this Standing Order, “portable electronic devices” include laptop computers, cellular phones (including smart phones), electronic tablets, cameras, smart watches, smart glasses, and any other instruments capable of photography, video recording, audio recording, or wireless communications (including earpieces and fitness trackers).

2. Except as provided below, visitors to the federal courthouses in Baltimore and Greenbelt may NOT bring portable electronic devices into the courthouses. Any portable electronic devices brought to the courthouses will be subject to a security inspection by Court Security Officers upon entrance to each courthouse. Any portable electronic devices not permitted to be brought into the courthouse will be stored in lock boxes located in the lobby until the owner of the device retrieves the device upon departure from the courthouse.

3. The following persons are excepted from the above restrictions and may possess portable electronic devices inside the courthouses, provided that they present any identification

cards, credentials, or documents necessary to confirm their status to court security personnel upon request. Except as provided below, visitors permitted to possess portable electronic devices inside the courthouse must keep these devices out of sight and either powered down or in silent mode in courtrooms and all public areas of the courthouse.

(a) Employees and contractors of the United States Courts, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the U.S. Trustee's Office ("USTO"), the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the General Services Administration ("GSA"), and any other federal agencies that maintain offices in the courthouse may possess portable electronic devices inside the courthouse. Employees and contractors of these excepted agencies who possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse must present a photo identification card, personal identity verification (PIV) card, or electronic credential to court security personnel upon request.

(b) Members of the Bar of the District of Maryland, pro hac vice attorneys, and counsel of record in scheduled proceedings before the U.S. Court of Appeals, and accompanying members of their staff,¹ may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse and must present their electronic credential to court security personnel upon request. Accompanying members of an attorney's staff must obtain an electronic credential from the Clerk's Office to possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse when attending scheduled proceedings before the U.S. District Court or the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

¹ Attorneys' clients are not considered members of their staff and are not excepted from the above restrictions on possession of portable electronic devices in the courthouse. Excepted attorneys are responsible for advising their clients that the possession of portable electronic devices in the courthouse is generally prohibited.

(c) Members of the Bar of the District of Maryland and pro hac vice attorneys, and accompanying members of their staff, may use portable electronic devices (subject to the restrictions of Local Rule 506) in attorney and witness conference rooms and attorney lounges, and may access the Attorney Wi-Fi connection (subject to applicable policy restrictions). Except as provided elsewhere in this Standing Order, use of portable electronic devices is prohibited inside courtrooms, including in the gallery, and in the presence of jurors in areas outside of courtrooms. Members of the Bar and pro hac vice attorneys may use portable electronic devices in other public areas of the courthouse only as necessary to conduct court business.

(d) Counsel of record in scheduled proceedings before the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and accompanying members of their staff, may use portable electronic devices for approved purposes while at counsel table inside the courtroom (unless expressly prohibited by the presiding judge), provided the devices emit no sound while in use and are not used for any activity prohibited by Local Rule 506.

(e) U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services officers and court security personnel may possess and use portable electronic devices for official purposes in courtrooms (unless expressly prohibited by the presiding judge) and in other public areas of the courthouse. U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services officers shall avoid use of such devices in areas outside of courtrooms when jurors are present.

(f) Bankruptcy trustees and accompanying members of their staff attending scheduled proceedings before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse and may use such devices during the

proceedings to the extent permitted by the presiding judge. Trustees who are not members of the Bar of the District of Maryland must obtain an electronic credential from the Clerk's Office of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to possess and use portable electronic devices in the courthouse and must present this electronic credential to court security personnel upon request.

(g) Self-represented litigants may obtain from the Clerk's Office limited authorization to possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse when attending scheduled proceedings before the U.S. District Court or the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.² Such litigants must present the document or electronic credential confirming this limited authorization to court security personnel upon request.

(h) Litigants attending scheduled traffic and other petty offense proceedings may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse and may use portable electronic devices for purposes approved by the presiding judge inside the courtroom. Such litigants must bring any notice or summons issued by the Central Violations Bureau (CVB) reflecting the date of the proceeding and present it to court security personnel upon request.

(i) Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse. Upon request by court security personnel, law enforcement officers must present any badge, identification card, or other credential issued by their respective law enforcement agencies.

² A self-represented litigant may submit a request for limited authorization to possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse through the Court's website at <https://www.mdd.uscourts.gov/content/electronic-device-request>.

(j) Jurors may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse but may not use such devices for any activity prohibited by Local Rule 506. Prospective jurors may use portable electronic devices while in the jury assembly rooms. Selected jurors may use portable electronic devices in jury deliberation rooms, unless otherwise instructed by the presiding judge, but may NOT use such devices during deliberations. Members of grand juries may NOT use portable electronic devices in grand jury rooms while the grand jury is in session.

(k) Credentialed members of the news media may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse but may only use such devices while inside spaces specifically designated for media use, provided the devices are not used for any activity prohibited by Local Rule 506.

(l) Visitors attending naturalization proceedings or other ceremonial events, such as investiture, attorney admission, portrait presentation, and memorial ceremonies may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse and may use such devices in the space where the event is conducted to the extent permitted by the presiding judge.

(m) Visitors attending educational and/or training programs may possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse if permitted by the judge or court executive overseeing the program and may use such devices to the extent permitted by the judge or court executive.

(n) Visitors with special or disability-related need to bring a portable electronic device into the courthouse (such as for medical monitoring purposes or to control hearing aids) must obtain from the Clerk's Office limited authorization to possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse and present the document

or electronic credential confirming this limited authorization to court security personnel upon request.³

(o) Visitors of judges, court executives, and executives of USTO and GSA who obtain express written permission from the person being visited may possess portable electronic devices inside the courthouse.

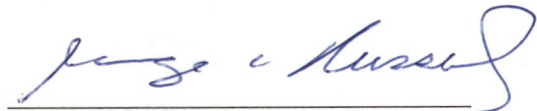
4. Violations of this Standing Order may result in sanctions, which may include fines, forfeiture of any privileges granted by this Standing Order, and, at the discretion of court security personnel, ejection from the courthouse or temporary confiscation of portable electronic devices used in connection with any violation.

5. Nothing in this Standing Order shall limit or expand the photography and recording exceptions permitted under Local Rule 506.

6. Standing Order 2016-05 is rescinded.

7. This Standing Order shall take effect on November 2, 2026.

9/16/2026
Date


George L. Russell, III, Chief Judge
United States District Court

³ A visitor with special or disability-related needs to possess portable electronic devices in the courthouse may submit a request for limited authorization through the Court's website at <https://www.mdd.uscourts.gov/content/electronic-device-request>.